



St. Cronan Catholic Church
November 23, 2025
Feast of Christ the Healer



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday



Holiday Food Drive: St. Cronan Food Pantry, in conjunction with Catholic Charities, will be collecting funds to purchase turkeys for the holidays. A suggested donation of \$20 will cover the cost of a turkey and a pie from Aldi. Please use the envelopes provided in the church vestibule, or purchase an Aldi gift card and drop it by the office or in the collection plate. Contact Mary Solomon or Kelly Collins with questions.

A new exciting fund raiser – “Blind Date with a Book”

The weekend of Dec. 13-14, we will be selling books for \$10.00 after all the masses for you to purchase as Christmas presents. It is a book decorated with clues as to what the book is about. You can just keep the book decorated on your shelf, actually open it and find out what book you purchased or give it as a gift to someone who likes to read. Join in this fun and have an enjoyable “Blind Date with a Book”.

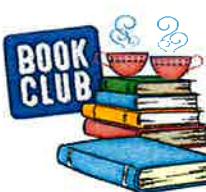


Poinsettia Fund Raiser: Every Christmas season, St. Cronan's Church sells red, white, and pink poinsettias. This year we are selling them at three price points, by size: (4" - \$10) (6" - \$20) (8" - \$30). Christmas poinsettia order forms can be found in the back of Church. The last day to order your poinsettias for the Christmas season is November 30. And poinsettias purchased can be picked up after each Mass on December 6 and 7. At this time the online store has not yet been set up. If you wish to purchase with a credit card, please call the office 314-289-9384.





Prayers Please: Nick and Shirley Ambrose and Family; Elisabeth Byrne's mom, Denise Siebold; Joe Connolly; Yvonne DeHart's daughter, Cathy Hebert; Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne Oberle; Trish Curtis' sibling, Skip; Joe Fairless; Rob Barnicle, who has been placed on hospice; Judith Santamaria, Leslie Conway; Madonna and Tom's friend, 3-1/2 year old Juliette Braren; Jane Sykes; Mary Proot's sister, Terry Jacks, and Mary's son, Tim Proot; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Ken Ladd; Fr. Gerry Kleba; Laura Krueger's mom, Evelyn Puleo; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie and their granddaughter, Madi and their dear friend, Robert Screece, who has been placed on hospice; Judy Varias' husband Gene Krebs; J.T. Fowler; Grace Mueller; and Joe Kuciejczyk, brother of Madonna and Janet, and brother-in-law of Tom and Jude Michael Sullivan, new born son of Mariah Byrne Sullivan and Connor Sullivan.



St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the 1st floor conference room after the 10am mass from 11:30am-12:30pm. Our December 14 book is "Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times" by Gregory Boyle. Our January 11 book is "Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion and Truth in the Immigration Debate" by Matthew Soerens & Jenny Yang. We invite you to join us in person or to simply read with us.

Black Lives Matter Vigil takes place the third Friday of the month at the corner of Manchester and Kingshighway, 4:30-5:30 p.m. The next vigil will take place on Friday, Nov. 21. Please join us!



Fair Trade Coffee: We are ordering Fair Trade coffee for Sunday mornings. If we order in bulk, we get a cut on shipping. If you care to order some coffee and add to the Cronan order, please contact call Al Sprehe and give him your order. 314-607-7188. Order forms are located in the church vestibule. We will have the coffee at Church or in the office for pick up.



Our Newest Members:

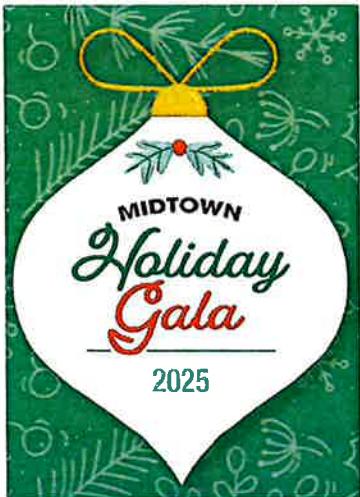
Kesey Waranimman

Grace Quinn

Christopher Archer

Robin Sandroni

Sophia Sandroni



TRINITY, 4"x4"
WINDOW STATIC
CLINGIE, \$18 each
The annual St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Gift Fundraiser will begin

after Masses on the weekend of November 15-16, and will continue until the 4"x4" Celtic Trinity window static clingies, like the one on the church wall behind the choir, are sold out.

You are cordially invited!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025

6:30 PM | THE CHRISTY

5856 Christy Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63116

COCKTAILS 6:30 pm

DINNER & PROGRAM 7:30 pm

DANCING 8:30 -10:30 pm | DJ O

TICKETS \$100/person | \$800/table of 8

ATTIRE Semi-Formal

PARKING Complimentary Parking in
The Christy Parking Lot

To order tickets online or view
sponsorship information, please visit
midtownstl.org/holiday-gala

Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

1202 S. Boyle, St. Louis, MO 63110

Community Life Coordinator: Johnny Zokovitch

Johnny@stcronan.org

Retired Priest in Residence: Fr. Jack Schuler

Jschuler@stcronan.org

Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdzialski

Diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward

Mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

Dsdickey@earthlink.net

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon

St. Cronan Catholic Church Land Acknowledgement.

We respectfully acknowledge that St. Cronan Church stands on the ancestral lands of Native American and Indigenous peoples. We honor their enduring presence and acknowledge the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization. We are committed to learning, dialogue, and fostering reconciliation with Native American and Indigenous communities.

For the full land acknowledgment, visit stcronan.org.

Hi friends, last week, the US Catholic bishops issued a special message that unequivocally puts the Church on the side of immigrants. We'll be sharing the special message in this week's bulletin and Monday Notes, but you can also find it here on the USCCB site at this link: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2025/us-bishops-issue-special-message-immigration-plenary-assembly-baltimore>.

I've spent some time with the bishop who was instrumental in getting this letter issued, Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso, and Jack just recently celebrated Mass with him at the border. Bishop Seitz was also the recipient of the Peace Award at the conference I was in in Italy a week ago. I wrote about the new letter and Bishop Seitz's influence in my latest column for the Pax Christi USA website.

*In peace,
Johnny*

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathered for their Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore, the bishops issued a Special Message addressing their concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants in the United States. It marked the first time in twelve years the USCCB invoked this particularly urgent way of speaking as a body of bishops. The last one issued in 2013 was in response to the federal government's contraceptive mandate.

Under the regulations pertaining to statements and publications of the Conference, a "Special Message" may only be issued at plenary assemblies, and they are statements which the President of the Conference, the Administrative Committee, or the general membership consider to be appropriate in view of the circumstances at the time. To show the consensus of the body, a Special Message must receive two-thirds of the Conference members present and voting at the plenary in order to pass. In a vote of 216 votes in favor, 5 votes against, and 3 abstentions, the bishops overwhelmingly approved the Special Message, with sustained applause of the body following the vote.

The full text of the bishops' Special Pastoral Message follows:

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of

communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (Zechariah 7:10). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for

Continued on pg. 6

Continued from pg. 5

our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (Luke 10:30–37), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (Matthew 25). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration

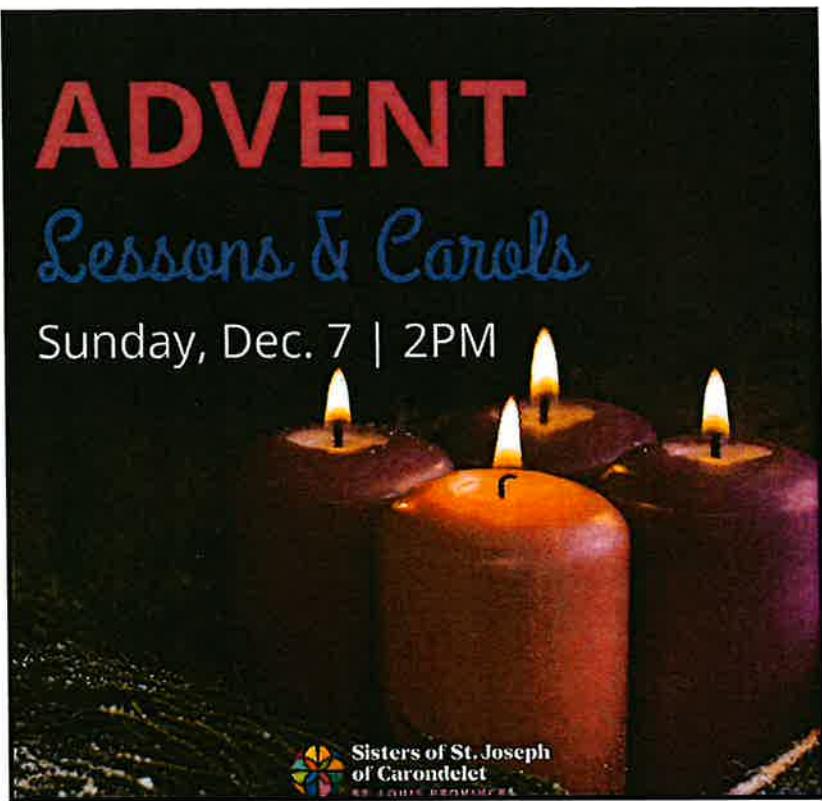
reform.

As disciples of the Lord, we remain men and women of hope, and hope does not disappoint! (cf. Romans 5:5)

May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ.



How Great our Joy! St. Louis Metro Singers Christmas Concerts: Our own **Dawn Lester and Patrick Mooney** will be singing in these concerts, which will take place on the following dates: Sunday, November 30, 7:00 p.m., Webster Groves Presbyterian Church; Saturday, December 6, 7:00 p.m., St. Paul's United Church of Christ; Sunday, December 7, 3:00 p.m., St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish. Concerts are free, but free will offerings are accepted. .



ADVENT

Lessons & Carols

Join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet on a reflective journey as we prepare ourselves for the birth of our Lord.

Sunday, Dec. 7 | 2PM

**SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF
CARONDELET MOTHERHOUSE**
6400 MINNESOTA AVE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63111

All are welcome.

A sale will feature handcrafted Peruvian items available for purchase.
(cash or check)



Sponsored by the CSJ Grassroots Committee



RSVP BY NOV. 24
Scan the QR Code
to learn more and
register online or
visit csjsl.org.

Caroline Leibman, Spiritual Enrichment through Embodiment: Caroline offers a practice grounded in Authentic Movement, weaving aspects of mindfulness practices to accompany the process. Individual sessions are 45 minutes and take place in the Church Vestibule. Caroline offers these sessions free of charge. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please register at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BAFAF23A0F49-52556820-spiritual>

Fair Trade Holiday Market: Friends of Bethlehem St. Louis will provide Palestinian products and honey. Saturday, December 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Sunday, December 7, 7:45-11:15 a.m. at St. Cronan.



Reflection for Christi the King Sunday, November 23, 2025

The first reading from 2 Samuel and the gospel reading from Luke offer a strange juxtaposition. One of the biggest misunderstandings of the early disciples was their expectation that Jesus would be the new David, a warrior-king to deliver liberation from the Romans for his people Israel. Over and over again we find the disciples' wrestling with the apparent incongruity of Jesus as Messiah with the traditional understanding that posed David as template.

The contrast is made strikingly clear in today's readings: In his moment of victory, the tribes of Israel flow to David to pay him homage and anoint him king after he has slain his enemies and consolidated power by military might. In Jesus' seeming moment of defeat—crucified as a common criminal—the rulers of Israel "sneer" at him as he is humiliated and tortured and the Roman soldiers mockingly call him "the king of the Jews" (oddly enough placing two supposed enemies—the leaders of Israel and the might of Rome—on the same side). One of the criminals sharing his fate puts an even sharper point on it, using the very term that evokes the specter of David—calling Jesus "the Christ," i.e. "the anointed one."

One of the consistent themes of the gospels is how Jesus frustrates the expectations of the disciples, the very people who have placed their faith in him and linked their future to his. The disciples long for a Messiah

who comes in power to set things right, meting out justice by any means necessary, striking down their oppressors, instituting a new regime, and, in the process, elevating their own status. They are like the Israelites before them begging Samuel to give them a king—despite warnings that a king means losing their sons to war, that their daughters would serve his whims, that they all would sacrifice the work of their hands in taxes for the king's benefit, and they would, in fact, become slaves. Indeed, maybe it is this predilection to long for a savior who is fundamentally bad for us that will lead the crucified Jesus to assert, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The invitation here is to reimagine what "kingship" looks like for those aligned with God. It is a valuable revelation in our current reality where the desire for a king—an autocratic strong man—is so prevalent among those in our nation who identify as Christian. The political implications of Jesus challenge such a notions for any who would truly be his disciples—whether 2,000 years ago or today. Jesus reveals that true kingship is to sacrifice oneself for one's people, to identify not with those in power (i.e. rulers, soldiers) but with criminals, to remain loyal to the God of peace and compassion even when threatened with violence and humiliation, and to confront unjust power with strategies and tactics rooted in nonviolence that respects the dignity of every human being.

~ *Johnny Zokovitch,*